

Application SummaryAwarded Amounts

Scoring Total:

ESG CY 2014

Denial Reason:

108.00

\$100,000.00

Scoring Results

Applicant Name and Location

Organization Name:*

Youth and Shelters Services, Inc.

Project Name(s) (Enter more than one if for multiple projects):*

Boone County TLP, Marshall County TLP, Story County TLP, low a Homeless Youth Center

Organization Address*

Street Address:

City

State:

Zip
Code:

420 Kellogg

Ames

IA

50010

County:*

STORY

Organization Contact Information*

Action	Role	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Fax	Email	Other - Role Description
	Executive Director	George	Belitsos	(515) 233-3141	(515) 233-2440	gbelitsos@yss.ames.ia.us	
	Other - Describe	Roberta	Milinsky	(515) 233-3141	(515) 233-2440	rmilinsky@yss.ames.ia.us	Associate CEO

Applicant DUNS #:*

Applicant Tax Identification Number (TIN)/Employer Identification Number (EIN):*

Phone number for clients to access your services:*

(515) 233-3141

Please provide a brief summary of the project, including project goals, project fit within your organization, and target population. (200 words or less; information may be shared publicly.)*

Youth and Shelter Services provides support to nearly 10,000 children, youth, and families each year. The Transitional Living (TLP) and Street Outreach (SOP) Programs serve homeless youth in Boone, Marshall, Story, and Polk Counties in central Iowa. Qualified and caring staff at Transitional Living facilities located in Ames, Boone, Des Moines, and Marshalltown will provide an estimated 160 eligible homeless youth ages 16-21 and young pregnant/parenting women up to 25 and their children, with the skills, support, and resources needed for independent adult living. By way of its Mobile Outreach Homeless Runaway Youth vans, Iowa Homeless Youth Centers' (IHYC- a community branch of YSS) Street Outreach staff will visit abandoned houses and warehouses as well as campsites in secluded wooded areas throughout Des Moines to find homeless young people and provide services. An estimated 315 identified homeless youth will receive basic needs (access to food, clothing, shelter, health and mental health care, showers and laundry), as well as referral to various community resources and programs. The primary goals of both programs include providing homeless youth with the knowledge, skills, treatment (if needed), confidence, resilience, and access to community resources (e.g., education and employment) necessary for safe and independent living.

Add Scoring Comments:**Threshold Items**

Answers in this section are used to determine general applicant eligibility and eligibility for competition priority bonus points.

1. Recipient Type*

501(c) Non Profit

2A. Is your agency a Transitional Housing/Shelter provider applying for ESG funds in the Shelter category (either Essential Services or Operations)?*

Yes



No

2B. If answering yes to the above question, did your agency receive Iowa ESG statewide program funding during the period from July - December 2010? If not, STOP. It is a federal requirement under the ESG Interim Rule that Transitional Housing/Shelters may be eligible for further ESG funding ONLY if they also received funding during Federal Fiscal Year 2010, which in Iowa corresponds to the above dates. If answering no to the above question, answer Not Applicable here.*

Yes

3. Will your agency have either a completed independent financial audit or completed independent reviewed financial statements, performed by a Certified Public Accountant and reflecting financial activity at least through 8/31/2011, to submit with this application? If not, STOP! Completed, current, and independently reviewed financial statements or audit are required for eligibility.*

Yes



No

4. Which of the following ESG service activities is your agency applying to provide?*

Street Outreach



Shelter



Homelessness Prevention



Rapid Rehousing

5. Which of HUD's four Homeless Categories does your project intend to serve (select all that apply)?*

Category 1: Literally Homeless



Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

- ☐ Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes
- ☐ Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence
- ☐ At Risk of Homelessness (only for Homelessness Prevention assistance)

Details of HUD's four Homeless Categories can be found at this link.

6. Describe the targeted population your project intends to serve (select all that apply).*

- ☐ Men
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Adult Couples
- ☒ Families with Children
- ☒ Youth (less than 25 years of age)
- ☐ Persons Fleeing Domestic Violence
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Persons with Substance Use Disorders
- ☐ Persons with Severe Mental Illness
- ☐ Persons with HIV/AIDS
- ☐ Persons with Disabilities
- ☐ Persons who are Chronically Homeless
- ☐ Other

7. Select the counties your project will serve. You may utilize the Control or Shift keys on your keyboard to select multiple counties or groups of counties.*

County
BOONE
MARSHALL
POLK
STORY

Add Scoring Comments:

Competition Priorities

The questions in this section are optional. They will be scored for possible Priority Bonus Points.

1. Describe the services your program offers to families with children. How does the agency ensure that children are enrolled in school, connected to appropriate services, and aware of their eligibility for McKinney-Vento education services? Note that if providing emergency shelter to families with children under age 18, the age of a child under age 18 must not be used as a basis for denying any family's admission to the shelter. (3 priority bonus points)

YSS TLP programs included in this application serve youth 16 to 21 years of age, and pregnant and parenting females up to age 25 years. In 2012, the number of youth under 18 years of age served totaled 70 (includes: Boone – 3, Marshall - 31, Story – 12, Polk – 24). To address educational needs, TLP staff members work with participants to determine highest educational grade attained, goals for furthering education, and an educational plan. The IHYC-staffed Education and Employment

Coordinator (EEC) in Des Moines and Case Managers in other program service areas ensure that school-aged youth are referred to the local McKinney-Vento youth Liaison immediately so that as little time as possible lapses in youth school attendance. Caseworkers, as well as the youth Liaisons, inform homeless youth of their rights under the McKinney-Vento Act. Network staff members contact local school district homeless liaisons to discuss each participant and further ways to collaborate. Information for school liaisons is obtained from the state homeless education coordinator and the local school district administration office. As an established program, YSS TLP staff members have productive relationships with liaisons in the service area.

For children not yet school age, program staff members help families connect with appropriate child care and preschool resources in the community, and assist families in accessing available financial resources to support early child care expenses (e.g., DHS child care assistance, State of Iowa Voluntary Preschool programs, and Early Childhood Iowa preschool assistance). Staff members also help families obtain child health care screens and childhood immunization services.

2. Describe any special services your program offers to veterans. During the 2012 calendar year, how many veterans were served by your program? How does this compare to the total number of clients served? (3 priority bonus points)

The program does not provide special services to veterans.

3. Describe any special services your program offers to persons who are chronically homeless, according to HUD's March 2013 proposed definition of Chronically Homeless (see the link below for more information). During the 2012 calendar year, how many chronically homeless persons were served by your program? How does this compare to the total number of clients served? (3 priority bonus points)

The program does not provide special services to persons who are chronically homeless.

Information regarding HUD's proposed definition for Chronically Homeless is available through this link (part of the rule for the Rural Housing Stability Program).

4. Is your agency committing to utilize at least half of any grant received to serve a rural area, defined here as outside a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)? If so, describe. Briefly, MSAs in Iowa are Ames, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines-West Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City, Council Bluffs, Sioux City, and Waterloo-Cedar Falls (some counties are also included; see the link below for more information). (3 priority bonus points)

Of the proposed funding request, 51% of funds will serve rural youth areas, defined as those areas outside of designated MSAs. The program provides services in Boone, Marshall, Polk, and Story Counties. The service area includes the MSAs of Des Moines-West Des Moines and Ames. However, services reach youth and young adults from non-MSA designated areas within Boone, Marshall, and Story Counties, as well as throughout Iowa.

According to the US Census Bureau, Boone County has a 2011 estimated population of 26,255. There are 10 communities in Boone County, of which the city of Boone has the largest population at 12,635 persons. The remaining communities Madrid (2,539 persons), Ogden (2,041), Pilot Mound (172), Boxholm (194), Luther (122), Beaver (48), Fraser (102), Berkley (32), and Sheldahl (322) are considered rural. As with many rural areas, the number of available human service providers is not as many as may be found in urban areas. In addition, accessing available resources is often a challenge due to transportation barriers. During 2012, the TLP program services located in Boone served 11 participants.

Marshall County, located in central Iowa east of Story County, had a 2011 estimated population of 40,980. Marshalltown, the county seat and population center, has an estimated 27,775 people. Other communities within Marshall County are rural, including Albion (509), Clemons (150), Ferguson (128),

Gilman (513), Haverhill (175), Laurel (240), Le Grand (945), Liscomb (302), Melbourne (838), Rhodes (307), St. Anthony (103), and State Center (1481). As in many smaller communities, resource limitations impact services available in Marshall County. For example, as Iowa restructures the network system for domestic violence services the shelter that had been in Marshalltown will close. Fort Dodge will serve as the location for domestic violence shelter services in the region that includes Marshall County, which is located approximately 100 miles from Marshalltown. The Marshalltown based TLP program served 61 during 2012.

In addition, many of the communities served in Story County outside of Ames are rural in nature. Thirty-four percent of the county's estimated 89,663 population live outside of Ames. Story County communities outside of Ames include Cambridge (829), Nevada (6,807), Story City (3,436), Collins (496), Colo (877), Gilbert (1,083), Huxley (3,323), Kelley (309), Maxwell (921), McCallsburg (333), Roland (1,285), Slater (1,491), and Zearing (585). The Ames based TLP program served 22 during 2012. Story County has service resources, however, community needs assessments continue to identify that transportation barriers inhibit many individuals from being able to access these resources. For Story County residents outside of Ames the transportation barriers are even greater.

For more information about MSAs in Iowa, click on this link for the Iowa Data Center.

5A. Is your agency a current recipient of an Iowa Statewide Emergency Solutions Grant to provide services during the 2013 calendar year? (This would be either the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Phase II ESG or the Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Part 2 ESG grant from the Iowa Finance Authority.)

☒ Yes ☐ No

5B. If yes to the above question, has the agency expended at least 25% of the total grant on eligible expenses, by June 30, 2013? Reimbursement requests demonstrating this must have been received at the Iowa Finance Authority no later than July 10, 2013; to receive points, Iowa Finance Authority records must also demonstrate that the agency has submitted timely and accurate grant documentation, participated in grant conference calls, or other measures of grant management. (3 priority bonus points)

☒ Yes ☐ No

6A. Did your agency receive any of the grants listed below during the previous three program years (check all that apply)?

- ☒ 2012 Iowa Statewide Emergency Solutions Grant (January 1 - December 31, 2012)
- ☒ 2012 Shelter Assistance Fund Grant (January 1 - December 31, 2012)
- ☒ 2011 Homeless Assistance Program Grant (combined ESG & SAF; January - December 2011)
- ☒ 2010 Emergency Shelter Grant (July - December 2010)
- ☐ None of the above

6B. For each of the grants checked above, list the total amount granted and the total amount approved for reimbursement (list separately). To receive points, Iowa Finance Authority records must also confirm spending of at least 80% of the grant total each year. (5 priority bonus points)

Below is a list of the total amounts granted for each of the grant programs selected above in 6A. The total amounts approved for reimbursement are included in parentheses.

IHYC TLP

2012 ESG: \$0

2012 SAG: \$17,650 (approved for reimbursement: \$17,650)

2011 ESG & SAF: \$21,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$21,000)

2010 ESG: \$19,500 (approved for reimbursement: \$19,500)

IHYC Outreach

2012 ESG: \$14,500 state (approved for reimbursement: \$14,500)
2012 ESG: City of Des Moines \$10,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$10,000)
2012 SAG: \$0
2011 ESG & SAF: \$25,000 state (expended \$25,000)
2011 ESG & SAF: \$24,000 City of DM (expended \$24,000)
2010 ESG: \$19,500 state (approved for reimbursement: \$19,500)
2010 ESG: \$12,000 City of DM (approved for reimbursement: \$12,000)

Rosedale Youth Shelter (Ames/Story County) – not included in this application though funded in prior years

2012 ESG: \$0
2012 SAG: \$14,500 (approved for reimbursement: \$14,500)
2011 ESG & SAF: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)
2010 ESG: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)

TLP Boone

2012 ESG: \$0
2012 SAG: \$17,650 (approved for reimbursement: \$17,650)
2011 ESG & SAF: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)
2010 ESG: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)

TLP Marshall

2012 ESG: \$0
2012 SAG: \$17,650 (approved for reimbursement: \$17,650)
2011 ESG & SAF: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)
2010 ESG: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)

TLP Story

2012 ESG – Jan to Dec 2012: \$0
2012 SAG – Jan to Dec 2012: \$17,650 (approved for reimbursement: \$17,650)
2011 ESG & SAF – Jan – Dec 2011: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)
2010 ESG: \$13,000 (approved for reimbursement: \$13,000)

Project Design

1A. How many clients does your project propose to serve with the funding requested in this application? Specify through which type of service(s). *

315 homeless

1B. Describe how this number was determined, including your anticipated cost per client, per type of service(s). (2 points)*

YSS estimated the numbers to be served based on identified community need, prior years outcome reports, and over 20 years of experience providing these services in the proposed service counties. These numbers are similar to the past several years.

For the Street Outreach program, the estimated cost per client is \$55.55 (\$17,500 / 315 youth). For the homeless youth receiving services through the TLP programs, the cost per client is \$692.69 (\$110,830/160 youth).

2. How will your agency meet the requirements for Habitability and Lead-Based Paint Inspections? Note that requirements exist for both Shelters and agencies providing Homelessness Prevention or Rapid Rehousing assistance. (2 points)*

As a large child welfare agency, Youth and Shelter Services (YSS) serves children and youth in a variety of settings. As with all YSS programs, all YSS Transitional Living facilities are licensed by the Iowa

Department of Human Services (DHS) and inspected to meet minimum habitability standards set by DHS, which includes lead-based paint inspections. Current licenses are on file for each facility that state 'This facility complies with the standards established by the Department of Human Services.'

YSS management staff members work closely with property owners, DHS, and program staff to determine safe, accessible, appropriate, and licensed facilities for all participants. YSS' Administrative Directive Number 37.3 'Safety Checklist' outlines the policies and procedures for ensuring the safety and well-being of participants involved in YSS' Transitional Living Program. The Safety Checklist is completed at intake and when significant change occurs for youth. Steps to ensure adequate habitability standards include educating staff and participants about potential hazards, mandatory reporting by staff and participants of any hazards, and random Home Safety Checks that are completed regularly by an entity other than YSS (e.g. local City inspectors, etc.)

Each TLP program also completes a monthly Facilities Inspection Report for each building. This report addresses safety items like alarms and drills, first aid trained staff and supplies, exits and extinguishers, storage of medications and chemicals, food storage and safety, review of other safety items (e.g., working lights, outlets and light switch condition and functioning, furnace checks, carbon monoxide detector functioning, and health code items (e.g., cleanliness, heating/AC functioning properly, license displayed). Completed inspection reports are reviewed by program supervisors and the YSS Quality Improvement Coordinator, with appropriate follow-up as needed.

3. How will your agency ensure that program participants are assisted in obtaining mainstream services and financial assistance for which they may be eligible? Consider housing, social services, employment, adult education, youth programs, etc. (6 points)*

Through individualized case plans done in cooperation with participant youth, the YSS TLP participants in Boone, Ames, Marshalltown and Des Moines are connected with various private, local, and state services. TLP staff members make referrals to local community resources to meet participants' educational, employment, physical/mental health, financial assistance, and a variety of other vital goals and needs. At intake, participants are interviewed and complete a questionnaire and assessment to determine what each participant needs to successfully move toward independent living. Skills assessments such as a self-sufficiency matrix and Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) are given and discussed regularly with participants to measure progress toward goals.

Youth also learn how to obtain mainstream services and financial assistance through group and individual training sessions that are regularly provided to participants. These skill-building sessions cover topics such as parenting (when appropriate), financial management, budgeting, housing, employment, and learning to make healthy lifestyle choices regarding substance abuse.

Upon entry into the program, participants are paired with a case manager who ensures that the participant is given access to all necessary services. Within the first 30 days of the program, TLP participants are encouraged to apply for low-income housing. Participants are also required to schedule a physical and dental appointment (if they have not had one in the last six months and cannot provide documentation), and a mental health evaluation to determine what level of counseling is needed. Staff members provide all clients with a resource guide listing all housing options available in the community. Staff members assist clients with completing appropriate applications (Medicaid, low-income housing, food stamps, etc.), connecting clients with appropriate resources (dental clinics, physicians, counselors, free clinics, etc.), scheduling appointments, and transportation if necessary. When clients are preparing to transition out of the program, staff refer them to rent and deposit assistance programs. Clients are required to save a portion of their income every month to assist with transitioning out of the program. Clients are given their savings upon their departure from the program.

For mental health services, substance abuse screening /counseling and treatment, participants in all locations are referred to YSS' extensive network of licensed counselors in Boone, Ames, and Marshalltown, or Telehealth services. In Des Moines, staff also refer participants to Children and Families of Iowa. Referrals to Alateen, AA/NA, Al-Anon, and other community-based substance abuse groups are given as needed.

For social services, such as food assistance (SNAP), TANF, Medicaid, WIC, low-income housing, etc., YSS

TLP staff members utilize YSS' network of community and state partnering agencies including DHS, Public Health, Salvation Army, local housing continuum boards in all TLP communities, Catholic Charities of Iowa, United Way, Food Bank of Iowa, and other child welfare agencies. For legal assistance, TLP staff members connect participants with local law enforcement officials and/or agencies providing free legal services. Case workers assist participants with any forms to apply for services as needed. Each community has local resource guides that have been developed and are maintained through the collaborative efforts of service providers.

For participants' employment needs, youth are referred to YSS' Employment Specialists, Iowa Homeless Youth Center's (IHYC- a community branch of YSS located in Des Moines) Education and Employment Coordinator, Iowa Workforce Development and Workforce Investment Act contacts, and local agencies such as YouthBuild, for assistance with job seeking, training, resume building, and interviewing skills. Employment strategies are also regularly covered in group and individual meetings.

To address educational needs, TLP staff members work with participants to determine highest educational grade attained, goals for furthering education, and an educational plan. As was noted previously, the IHYC-staffed Education and Employment Coordinator (EEC) in Des Moines and Case Managers in other program service areas work with McKinney-Vento Liaisons to minimize lapses in youth school attendance .

For the Street Outreach Program in Des Moines, identified youth are given access to the same services and referrals as the TLP programs, including referrals to appropriate contacts in the Des Moines community for obtaining housing, social services, and other needs. Additionally, IHYC works with permanent housing providers, such as Anawim, as well as with staff from the Des Moines Municipal Housing Authority, to identify and obtain permanent housing.

Street Outreach participants are also provided basic needs-related services. Young mothers with children in need of emergency shelter are placed in a room at IHYC's Lighthouse facility. Individual youth are placed in one of two emergency beds at IHYC's Buchanan facility. Street Outreach also refers homeless participants below the age of 18 to Youth Emergency Shelter and Services, and adults to Central Iowa Shelter and Services and Hope Ministries-Bethel Mission. At the Youth Outreach Center in Downtown Des Moines, identified homeless youth have access to a shower, food, and washer/dryer.

For medical services, Primary Health Care (PHC) staff regularly visit IHYC programs to identify participant health needs and help them access needed services. PHC often transports youth to medical services. Visiting Nurses Services regularly visits homeless mothers staying in the emergency bed at IHYC's Lighthouse facility. Staff from Planned Parenthood regularly visits IHYC programs to discuss sex and reproductive issues.

Employee and Family Resources (EFR) and Powell Chemical Dependency Center are two organizations that accept referrals from IHYC for substance abuse treatment. Children and Families of Iowa provides counseling and other support services to youth identified by IHYC staff with mental health issues and/or as victims of abuse. Female participants are also referred to The Young Women's Resource Center to receive help on issues affecting health and well-being.

4. How will your agency determine and prioritize which eligible families and individuals will receive assistance? If your agency uses any kind of standardized assessment tool such as a vulnerability index, acuity scale, or service prioritization decision assistance tool; describe this. Also specify any policies and procedures regarding a wait list, or turning away clients if at capacity. (6 points)*

Policies and Procedures for Prioritizing Services

For the TLP programs, a fixed number of openings are available to the program. All YSS programs, including the TLP, are required to have a 'waiting list' of potential participants. All individuals on the waiting list will be evaluated as openings occur and periodically as necessary to eliminate those no longer interested in the program. Contact will be made with those on the list as necessary to determine lack of interest or to update individuals on their status. Referrals to needed services will be made during this contact.

Priority to receive TLP services is not be based on the amount of time each person has been on the list but

rather the circumstances individuals face as openings occur. Those with more dire needs will be considered first. All identified potential participants have regularly updated files that describe the needs, severity of the situation, and other vital details. YSS' program policy requires regular contact with identified potential participants and documentation of these conversations. The decision on who enters the program will be made by the Case Manager/Program Coordinator with input from other staff as necessary and applicable. Each case is very unique and when an opening is available, all youth on the waiting list are contacted to update their current situation and to determine which situation requires the most immediate action. For example, if a youth who was living on a friend's couch two weeks ago is found to be gainfully employed and living safely and independently, (s)he will be removed from the list if the situation is deemed safe and secure. On the other hand, if this young person is found to be now living in an outdoor homeless camp with no viable options for a secure living situation, this person would likely be offered assistance first.

In all cases, whether or not the program is at capacity, TLP program policies dictate that 1) an intake/screening assessment is given at first contact to determine immediate needs and eligibility for the TLP program. Immediate needs, self-sufficiency, health, and living situation are primary considerations; 2) referrals to other YSS programs (counseling, treatment, emergency shelter, etc.) or community services are given as needed (mental/physical health needs, education/employment, etc.) to all youth who are in contact with TLP case managers regardless of eligibility or program capacity at that time. The intake process proceeds if the youth are determined to be eligible and willing to participate.

For all identified and referred persons whose basic needs are not being met, every effort is given to provide them with food, shelter, clothing, and other necessities as soon as possible. These efforts may include admitting people into the emergency beds YSS maintains throughout central Iowa, contacting local authorities and/or medical experts, or referrals to appropriate partnering agencies.

Because of the nature of the Street Outreach Program, a waiting list or prioritization of participants to receive services is not applicable. Street Outreach staff members actively seek and are available and on-call to provide services to any homeless youth at any time, and services are given to all who are eligible.

Assessment Tools

Upon TLP program entry the Casey Life Skills Assessment tool is used to evaluate life skills related to daily living, self care, relationships and communication, housing and money management, work and study skills, and career and education planning. Staff members also use the self-sufficiency matrix developed by Arizona Homeless Evaluation to identify areas of parenting skills, practices and knowledge that need to be improved by participants. As mentioned previously, SOP staff members determine from youth what basic needs are being unmet and staff members use Mental Health First Aid to evaluate basic mental health.

All TLP participants receive a full behavioral assessment by an independently licensed mental health counselor from YSS. YSS counseling staff members use a number of assessments such as Conner's Rating Scale, Child Behavioral Checklist, the M.I.N.I. International Neuropsychiatric Interview and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ).

A. If providing Street Outreach services, how will your program support homeless households in achieving some form of permanent, stable housing?

Street Outreach services help youth exit the street and achieve safe, stable living arrangements in the following ways:

1) Parental reunification: When appropriate, Street Outreach Program staff members work to reconnect youth with their parents or other family members. Staff members often work to help youth talk through issues with family and practice with the young person exactly what to say to family. Staff members also refer youth and families to family support services provided by Youth Emergency Services and Shelter and mediation services from Iowa Mediation Services and Des Moines Pastoral Counseling. Per state law, staff members always contact the parents of youth under the age of 18. Greyhound's Home Free program, in conjunction with the National Runaway Safeline (formerly the National Runaway Switchboard), is used to provide free transportation to out of state youth that wish to reunite with parents.

2) Expedited access to IHYC transitional living services: The Street Outreach Program refers youth to the

IHYC/YSS transitional living programs. IHYC's transitional living programs include the Lighthouse Transitional Living Center for pregnant and parenting homeless youth and the Buchanan Transitional Living Center for non-pregnant/parenting youth. Youth receive assistance to prepare to obtain and maintain permanent housing through access to long term living arrangements, case management, and support to meet employment and education objectives. Street Outreach staff members inform youth of the rules of these programs and work to prepare them for the interview process required for admittance into these facilities.

3) Access to permanent housing: Staff members refer older youth to programs that can lead to permanent housing, such as public housing units. Staff also assists youth in applying for Section 8 vouchers and rapid re-housing opportunities that will place them in subsidized permanent housing units. Street Outreach staff members also maintain professional relationships with many area property owners. These relationships allow staff members to advocate on behalf of youth who do not have strong rental history to be able to access affordable housing. Staff members also have opportunities to serve as liaisons between youth and their housing property owners as needed. In this role, staff members work to help youth understand their lease agreements and housing property owner expectations to ensure maintenance of these permanent housing opportunities.

B. If providing Shelter (including eligible transitional shelter), how will your program help participants to quickly and effectively access some form of permanent, stable housing?

After intake, crisis intervention if necessary, assessment, and introduction into the program, the participant and case manager meet to create an individual case plan to determine areas of focus. The purpose of the case plan is to outline areas in which the participant is in need of assistance and to set the goals that should be met to ensure success in the program. The case plan will list what steps are necessary for the participant to achieve goals and what assistance the case manager will provide in helping the participant meet their goals. Individual skill sessions focus on the goals and objectives within the case plan. Case plans are updated at least every 90 days.

A self-sufficiency matrix, Casey Life Skills Assessment, mental health assessment, interviews with trained staff and counselors, and other key inputs help staff and participants determine particular areas of focus for each participant. Referrals to a variety of community resources and social services also depend on the individual's needs. Because TLP and SOP staff members see youth with a wide variety of unique and individual needs, YSS and IHYC staff members are well-prepared to provide individualized services and referrals.

In addition to skills assessments, each participant's individual history and background is taken into consideration when determining the case plan. For example, educational plans will be different for a young person who has not finished high school and a person who has a GED. Similarly, referrals to services will differ for each participant. Some may require additional substance abuse treatment; others might need parenting skills training.

To help participants learn about how to seek and secure sustainable living accommodations, IHYC and YSS staff members work one on one with youth to help them understand the concept of living wages and equip them with the skills needed to acquire employment with these wages. IHYC, with the help of private funding, has developed a permanent supportive housing project that helps participants transition successfully into permanent housing paying a third or less of their income on housing.

As youth are helped in meeting education and employment goals they are also told by staff members how those goals play a role in obtaining housing stability. For education-related services, IHYC in Des Moines employs one full-time and one part-time Employment and Education Coordinator (EEC) who works to help homeless youth obtain employment with wages needed for independent living. YSS employment specialists in Story, Boone and Marshall Counties provide similar services. These staff members develop a strengths-based individualized employment and education plan, in addition to the overall case plan, that focuses on appropriate assessment and interest inventories, employment skills training such as resume writing, job search skills, and interview preparation, and participants' personal goals. The case plan and education/employment plan is a collaborative effort between the case manager and participant, and youth are involved in every part of the process.

C. If providing Homelessness Prevention or Rapid Rehousing assistance, describe your program policies in

the following areas:

C1. How will your agency determine the share of rent and utilities costs that each program participant must pay, if any, while receiving assistance?

YSS does not propose to provide Homelessness Prevention or Rapid Rehousing assistance through the ESG grant funds.

C2. How will your agency determine how long a particular program participant will be provided with assistance, and how will the amount of that assistance be adjusted over time?

Not applicable.

C3. How will your agency determine the type, amount, and duration of housing stabilization and/or relocation services to provide a program participant?

Not applicable.

Experience and Capacity

1. What is your agency's total budget for the current fiscal year?*

\$16,190,95

2. Describe your agency's fundraising for the past three years, including special events, direct mail campaigns, foundation and corporate support, capital campaigns, or other projects. Include projected and actual revenue from each category of fundraising. (3 points)*

Reggie's Sleepout – Each year the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC – a community center of YSS) organizes Reggie's Sleepout to raise awareness and funding support to address youth homelessness in central Iowa. The event is named in honor of a young man, Reggie Kelsey, who aged out of the foster care system, and with no resources to turn to, he tragically passed away only three months later. Funds raised support the programs and services of IHYC. In FY2010-2011 this event raised \$168,847, and in FY 2011-12 the event brought in \$176,716. A goal of \$176,000 was set for FY2012-2013, with the actual fundraising total being \$144,114.

Friends of YSS Foundation – Each year over 1,500 donors throughout the YSS service area support the Friends campaign. YSS community-based centers in Ames, Boone, Des Moines, Marshalltown, Nevada, and Webster City each participate in the fundraising efforts. Funds raised are used to support the programs and services of YSS. Donors who have given a total cumulative gift over the years of \$5,000 are members of the YSS Daedalus/Icarus Society. In FY 2010-2011, the Friends campaign raised \$446,554, and in FY 2011-2012 the total raised was \$422,445. The campaign goal for FY2012-13 was \$382,246; as of June 17, 2013, the campaign income totaled \$434,503.

Foundation and Corporate Support – Each year YSS is fortunate to receive support through foundation and corporate sources. Since January 2012, the gifts received from these corporate and foundation resources has totaled more than \$1,558,000. The support received through these sources benefit various areas of YSS, with some supports being specific to a designated program or service.

Cycling for YSS – Youth and Shelter Services of Marshall County (YSSMC) organizes the annual Cycling for YSS event. Funds generated through this event support the YSS Marshalltown programs and services that assist youth and families in need. The FY 2010-2011 event raised \$3,346, and the following year the event raised \$1,555. To date the FY 2012-13 event has raised \$1,595.

IHYC Capital Campaign – The Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) is in the initial phases of a capital campaign, which began in FY 2012-13. Thorough assessment of the future needs of homeless youth in the Polk County community led to the decision that the existing IHYC facilities would not be adequate to meet

the demand. Capital campaign funds will support the plan to relocate the programs and services to safer, more user-friendly, and more efficient facilities. The campaign goal is to raise \$2,600,000. To date the campaign has received pledges totaling \$935,000.

3. List top five major state or federal grants received during the past three years, if any. Include amount and purpose of each. (3 points)*

In addition to the ESG grants, YSS identifies the following as five major state or federal grants received in the last three years.

Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Purpose ~

TLP is offered through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. YSS has received TLP funding since 1990. TLP serves homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 21. The program offers residential and support services to homeless youth so that they can become self-sufficient and avoid long-term dependency on social services.

TLP works with youth who cannot be reunited with their families and do not have a safe place to live; it is an extension of the Basic Center Program. Young people are required to work on their education, maintain employment, and develop other life skills that allow them to become contributing members of their communities. Services are currently available within 31 counties in central Iowa through a network of agencies coordinated by YSS.

Amount Received ~

2011: \$200,000 (continuation grant)

2012: \$200,000 (continuation grant)

2013: \$187,160 (new competitive grant award for 5 years)

IHYC Transitional Living Program Lighthouse Maternity Group Home (MGH)

Purpose ~

TLP MGH funding is received through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. IHYC Lighthouse MGH serves non-system homeless youth ages 16 through 22 and their children. The grant supports providing safe and stable living accommodations for homeless pregnant and parenting youth along with basic life skills training, including health promotion, life planning and goal setting, household management and budgeting, and interpersonal skill building. Young mothers also receive training in parenting skills, adequate supervision, family budgeting, health and nutrition, child care for dependent children, family planning, and pregnancy prevention. The IHYC TLP MGH is not included in the previously mentioned TLP grant through HHS.

Amount Received ~

2010: NA

2011: NA

2012: \$200,000 (new competitive grant award for 5 years)

Basic Center Program

Purpose ~

BCP is offered through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. YSS has received BCP funding since 1983. BCP serves runaway and homeless youth, under 18 years of age, by providing them with temporary shelter and counseling.

Staff contact and work with families of runaway and homeless youth; maintain working relationships with police, schools, and other officials; and provide aftercare to participants and their families. BCP services are available within 28 counties through the Central Iowa Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Network, coordinated by YSS, involving sub-contracted with Francis Lauer Youth Services (Mason City) and Youth Shelter Care of North Central Iowa (Fort Dodge). Prior to closing, South Central Youth and Family Services was also part of the service Network.

Amount Received ~

2010: \$130,831 (new competitive grant award for 36 months)

2011: \$130,831 (continuation of 36-month grant)

2012: \$130,831 (continuation of 36-month grant)

Rural Opportunities and Connections (ROC)

Purpose ~

ROC is part of a federal Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Support System for Rural Homeless Youth demonstration project, which started October 1, 2008. The focus is on young people ages 16 to 21 years in rural areas who have few or no connections to family and community supports, and who are at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless. The purpose is to improve the services and supports for these youth. The Boone County TLP was selected to implement the demonstration project pilot site. The overarching goal of the project is to increase connections for youth in three critical areas of development: 1) survival support (stable housing, health care, and substance abuse and mental health services), 2) community connections (youth and adult partnerships, mentoring, peer support groups, and volunteering), and 3) education/employment (high school/GED completion, training, jobs, college). A HUB is available through which youth can access coordinated services and supports. Lessons from ROC will inform future policies and programs at the local, state, and national levels.

Amount Received ~

2010: \$52,857

2011: \$78,285

2012: \$86,382

Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN)

Purpose ~

YSS is the lead agency of the Iowa Aftercare Services Network. On July 1, 2006, the program expanded to include the PAL program. The PAL program will now extend financial and health care benefits to youth who have effectively "aged-out" of the state's foster care system. To earn these benefits, the youth ages 18 to 20 must continue their education or be working full-time. YSS is the lead agency in the Iowa Aftercare Services Network that administers the program for DHS. The Network is a collaboration of 11 non-profit child welfare agencies that cover all 99 Iowa counties. Network caseworkers have already worked with over 700 youth who have aged out of foster care with the goal of connecting youth to community resources and moving them toward self-support.

Amount Received ~

2010: \$4,106,815

2011: \$4,181,794

2012: \$4,329,457

4. Describe any litigation involving your agency during the past five years concerning civil rights, equal employment opportunities, or discrimination. Explain how these were resolved, if applicable. (3 points)*

YSS has not had any litigation concerning civil rights, equal employment opportunities, or discrimination in the last five years.

YSS has no unresolved state or federal program monitoring findings for any work relating to our homeless grants. YSS is working with the Department of Inspections and Appeals to develop new methods for preparing cost reports for unrelated programs.

6. What has been the percentage rate of staff turnover at your agency during each of the past three years? Use the following formula: Number of employees who left each year for any reason, DIVIDED BY the average number of employees, MULTIPLIED by 100. Example: If 10 employees left during 2012, and

the average number of employees during 2012 was 100, the turnover rate is 10%. Show your calculations. (3 points)*

FY09-10: $(78 \text{ staff left} \div 303 \text{ average \# employees}) \times 100 = 25.74\%$

FY10-11: $(89 \text{ staff left} \div 290 \text{ average \# employees}) \times 100 = 30.69\%$

FY11-12: $(103 \text{ staff left} \div 275 \text{ average \# employees}) \times 100 = 37.45\%$

7. List key training and staff development activities during the past three years, including dates and topics of major training. (3 points)*

YSS maintains a formal system of staffing and staff development, including written job descriptions for paid and volunteer staff, personnel policies, affirmative action plan, and orientation and in-service training. Records of performance evaluations are contained in personnel files. All paid staff members and volunteers receive basic orientation training, including thorough orientation and understanding of policies, philosophy, procedures and methods pertaining to the TLP program, and confidentiality procedures.

Staff members participate in monthly programmatic trainings. Copies of the YSS employee manual are provided to staff members at orientation and copies can also be found in each facility. Supervisors and new employees review the orientation process to determine adequate training to ensure job performance. A completed orientation form is kept in the personnel records of employees.

YSS provides training events. Trainings are publicized through a monthly newsletter. In-service trainings are offered at least monthly, and records are kept on training topics and attendance. Through mandatory trainings, YSS can assure that all staff members are aware of agency directives and policies.

In order to schedule staff training sessions that are meaningful to professional and personal growth, YSS conducts a needs assessment annually and utilizes record review by the Quality Improvement Coordinator to establish priorities in staff training. In addition to regularly scheduled CPR, First Aid, and Mandatory Reporter trainings, recent trainings have focused on trauma informed approaches (e.g., MANDT, Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavior Therapy, etc.), and strategies for staff members to assess youth and identify their needs (e.g., Motivational Interviewing, Mental Health First Aid, etc.) Diversity trainings such as Safe Zone, which include a focus on LGBTQ youth, are completed regularly.

A list of trainings provided over the last three years is included below. Youth are always welcome to attend trainings provided by YSS, and several youth have accompanied staff to the annual National Network for Youth Symposium in Washington D.C.

YSS staff members receive monthly individual supervision and bimonthly group meetings to discuss job performance and employee concerns. Shelter Case Reviews occur to summarize client behavior, progress in program and on Care Plan needs, major incidents, medical/medication issues, school and evaluation progress, family interaction, etc. Casework supervision is conducted weekly to review cases. These case review meetings include review of current cases, types of counseling, and other services that are being provided. Administrative directive and program policy handbooks detail types of supervision and case review.

Trainings Conducted FY11, FY12, and FY13

1. Addictions Training ~ Sep 2010
2. Aggression Replacement Therapy ~ July 2010
3. Behavior Management in Group/Classroom Setting ~ May 2013
4. Bridges Out of Poverty ~ Mar 2013
5. Children of Alcoholics ~ Apr 2012
6. Colors Personality/Team Building ~ Nov 2012
7. Conflict Resolution ~ Oct 2011
8. CPR ~ July 2010, Aug 2010, Sep 2010, Oct 2010, Nov 2010, Dec 2010, Jan 2011, Feb 2011, Mar 2011 x 2, Apr 2011 x 2, May 2011, Jul 2011 x 2, Aug 2011 x 3, Apr 2012 x 2
9. CPR/First Aid/AED ~ Jun 2011, Sep 2011, Oct 2011 x 3, Nov 2011 x 2, Dec 2011 x 2, Jan 2012, Feb 2012, Mar 2012, May 2012 x 2, Aug 2012, Sep 2012 x 2, Oct 2012 x 3, Nov 2012, Dec 2012 x 2, Jan 2013 x 2, Feb 2013, Mar 2013 x 2, Apr x 2, May 2013 x 2, Jun 2013

10. Cultural Competency ~ Aug 2012
11. Customer Service ~ Sep 2010, Oct 2010, Apr 2012, Oct 2012
12. Customer Service 101 ~ Mar 2013, May 2013
13. DMACC Computer training ~ Jan 2011
14. Domestic Abuse ~ Feb 2012
15. Effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome ~ Oct 2012
16. Emotional Freedom Techniques ~ May 2011
17. Environmental sustainability ~ Sep 2012
18. Ethics ~ Sep 2010, Sep 2011
19. Ethics in Substance Abuse Counseling ~ Jul 2012
20. Fire Safety ~ Aug 2010, Sep 2010, Oct 2011 x 3
21. First Aid ~ Aug 2010, Oct 2010, Nov 2010, Dec 2010, Jan 2011, Feb 2011, Mar 2011 x 2, Apr 2011 x 2, May 2011, Jul 2011 x2, Aug 2011 x 3
22. GFI Outlook Mail ~ Jul 2012, Oct 2012, Jan 2013, Apr 2013
23. Grief and Loss ~ Oct 2011
24. Help the Helper ~ Feb 2012, Mar 2012 x 2, Apr 2012 x 2
25. Iowa Drug Free Workplace Training Part II ~ Mar 2011, Feb 2013
26. Latino Diversity Training ~ Jul 2011
27. Legal Aid Training ~ Mar 2012
28. LGBTQ Homeless Study ~ Sep 2011, Feb 2012
29. Mandatory Reporter Training ~ July 2010, Aug 2010, Sep 2010 x 2, Oct 2010, Nov 2010, Dec 2010, Jan 2011, Feb 2011, Mar 2011, Apr 2011, May 2011, Jun 2011, Jul 2011, Aug 2011 x 2, Sep 2011, Oct 2011, Nov 2011, Dec 2011, Jan 2012, Feb 2012, Apr 2012, May 2012, Jun 2012, Jul 2012, Aug 2012, Sep 2012, Oct 2012, Nov 2012, Dec 2012, Jan 2013, Feb 2013, Mar 2013, Apr 2013, May 2013, Jun 2013
30. Mandt certification/recertification ~
 - a. Certification - July 2010, Oct 2010, Jan 2011, Mar 2011, May 2011
 - b. Re-certification - Sep 2010, Nov 2010, Feb 2011, Apr 2011, May 2011, Jun 2011, Sep 2011
31. BHWR Certification/Recertification ~
 - a. Certification - Jul 2011, Oct 2011, Jan 2012, Jan 2012
 - b. Re-certification -Nov 2011, Feb 2012, Apr 2012
32. Mandt/BHWR ~
 - a. Certification - Jul 2012, Oct 2012, Jan 2013, Apr 2013
 - b. Re-certification - Sep 2012, Nov 2012, Jan 2013, Apr 2013
33. Mapping Client Success ~ Sep 2011
34. Medication Manager/Medication Management ~ May 2011, Aug 2011, Oct 2011, Nov 2011, Aug 2012 x 2, Jul 2012, Oct 2012, Feb 2013
35. Mental Health First Aid ~ May 2011, Jun 2011 x 2, Jan 2012, May 2012, Jun 2012, Sep 2012, Oct 2012
36. Motivational Interviewing III ~ July 2010 x 2
37. Non Violent Communication (Advanced Counseling) ~ Jan 2012
38. Outcomes Follow-up III ~ Aug 2010
39. Positive Peer Culture ~ Dec 2010
40. Power Struggles & Diversity Training ~ Mar 2011
41. Quality Assessment tool ~ Oct 2010, Nov 2010
42. Risky Business ~ April 2011, Apr 2012, Apr 2013
43. ROSC Training ~ Mar 2011
44. Safe Zone ~ Jun 2012, Oct 2012, Nov 2012, Apr 2012
45. SASSI Training ~ Mar 2011
46. Self-Harm/Suicide Prevention ~ Feb 2011
47. Service Learning ~ Sep 2010
48. Serving Customers ~ Dec 2010, Mar 2011
49. Steward of Children: Prevent Child Sexual Abuse ~ Aug 2010
50. Strategic Planning ~ Aug 2012
51. Street Drugs and Gangs ~ Aug 2011
52. Supervisor Update & Lessons learned ~ May 2011
53. The Impaired employee ~ Jan 2011, Jan 2012
54. Trauma Care Services ~ May 2013, Jun 2013
55. Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy ~ Mar 2013
56. Treatment Goals ~ Nov 2011
57. Valuing Customers ~ Sep 2010 x 2, Oct 2010 x 4, Nov 2010, Jun 2011
58. VisionWorks - Counseling ~ Oct 2010

8. Describe the results of your agency's most recent audit or independent reviewed financial statements. What findings or concerns were identified, if any? Explain whether and how these were resolved. (Audit or financial statements must also be uploaded in the Exhibits section) (3 points)*

Houston & Seeman, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, performed an audit for YSS for the period ending June 30, 2012. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. No unresolved audit findings exist. The most recent audit is attached in the Exhibits.

9. Describe the oversight provided by the agency's board of directors. Include a list of members, how often the board meets, average meeting attendance during the past year, and key decisions or activities during the past year (such as strategic planning, major fundraising, etc.). (3 points)*

The YSS Board of Directors is comprised of 14 to 22 members. The Board includes a diverse representation of members from the communities served by YSS, including youth representatives and representatives from each of the YSS community based services locations (i.e., Boone, Eastern Story, Hamilton, Marshall, and Polk Counties). The Board is the ultimate authority for overall strategic planning, fiscal oversight, fund development, and policy setting for the agency. The YSS Board of Directors meets monthly. During FY2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13), the Board had 21 members. Average Board member attendance at the monthly meetings was 14 members during this time frame.

Over the past fiscal year, the Board has deliberated and taken action to address several key issues. Board members developed a new 5-year strategic plan for YSS to cover 2013 – 2018. Members kept up-to-date on state and federal legislative issues, and they analyzed the impact of the sequestration on federal funding. The Board evaluated the funding problems of mental health redesign and discussed how YSS needs to prepare for the Affordable Care Act. The Board has been actively involved in discussions regarding new methods for preparing Medicaid cost reports. During the year, the board hired a new Chief Financial Officer as the prior CFO retired. The Board approved the purchase of duplexes in Des Moines as the new location for the Lighthouse TLP facility. In addition, the Board has provided support and governance following a fire that occurred in the Boone TLP facility as YSS works to rebuild the home.

Youth and Shelter Services, Inc., Board of Directors 2013-2014

- 1) Corey Anderson – ISU Student at College of Engineering
 - 2) Fred Lembke – Retired from Iowa Veterans Home (Marshall County Rep)
 - 3) Jim Black – President, James R. Black & Associates; Retired from Iowa State University
 - 4) Riad Mahayni – Retired Professor, ISU Community and "Regional Planning
 - 5) Don Broshar – Human Resource Consultant, Iowa State University
 - 6) Matthew Coyle – Student, Iowa State University
 - 7) Yonas Michael – Ames Community School District
 - 8) Bruce Johnson – Commissioner - Hamilton Soil and Water Conservation District, Jewell City Council (Hamilton County Rep)
 - 9) Randi Peters – Co-owner, VenuWorks
 - 10) Katie Carmer – Realtor, Hunziker and Associates
 - 11) Brian Eslinger (Past Chair) – ISU Religious Studies Instructor and Retired Unitarian Minister
 - 12) Joyce Peterson – Retired Public School Teacher/Officer Worker (Boone County Rep)
 - 13) Mike Phillips – Business Loan Officer, Greater Iowa Credit Union
 - 14) Monica Porter – Retired Fundraiser from ISU Foundation
 - 15) Austin Woodin (Chair) – Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
 - 16) Keith Robinder – Assistance Dean of Students/Director of Student Assistance ISU
 - 17) Samantha Amann – College Student (Des Moines Rep)
 - 18) Suzy Shierholz – President, Story County Community Foundation
 - 19) Rosa Unal (Vice Chair) – Assistant Vice President IT and Donor Compliance Services, ISU Foundation
 - 20) Judy Mersman – Client Service Manager, Marrs Wealth Management
 - 21) Isaiah Villalobos – ISU Senior in Logistics
-

Community Partnerships

1. Describe the geographic boundaries for your community, in terms of local planning, needs assessments, and partnerships regarding homelessness and housing.*

Agency-wide, YSS partners with over 100 local and state agencies and organizations to provide the best services to children, youth and families across Iowa. A good number of these partnerships directly benefit the participants involved in the TLP and SOP programs. YSS believes that collaborations with organizations that perform complementary services allow agencies to dialogue and better utilize limited resources by working together to eliminate waste. Program services proposed in this application focus on YSS sites located in Boone, Marshall, Polk, and Story Counties in central Iowa. Youth served through the TLP programs, though, come from throughout Iowa and from outside of Iowa.

2. Describe how local homeless service providers communicate and plan together in your community. Who participates and how often does the group meet? How are providers working together to meet community goals, such as reducing the length of time persons spend experiencing homelessness, reducing the re-occurrence of homelessness, reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness, and increasing jobs and income? (3 points)*

YSS TLP Coordinators and Case Managers (Theresa Angle in Boone, Hope Metheny in Ames, Brad Whipple in Des Moines and David Hicks in Marshalltown) are the chairpersons of the local housing boards in their respective communities. This allows for identification of needs, collaboration and sharing of strategies and resources between agencies and communities.

Boone County

In Boone, the local board has been the Boone County Homeless Prevention Board (HPB). The group has met at various locations in Boone, Iowa, on the second Tuesday of each month. The mission is to "Address the needs and gaps in service for individuals/families that are homeless or potentially homeless in Boone County." In June of 2013 the HPB voted to revamp its image since losing its 501(c)(3) status earlier in the year. The HPB voted that a separate board would be established for Crawford Hall, the homeless shelter in Boone County, and that the Crawford Hall board would apply to be a 501(c)(3). The HPB further decided that a coalition would be formed called the Boone County Homeless Prevention Coalition (HPC). The goal of the HPC will be to focus on homelessness prevention in Boone County. This will allow the coalition to be able to focus more on Homeless Prevention in general, and not as much on the day-to-day operation of Crawford Hall. With the timing of these changes for the Boone County homeless services board, it was not possible to obtain a letter of support from the organizing Boone County Homeless Prevention Coalition to include with this application, however, YSS will continue their involvement with the Coalition and will work in partnership with the Crawford Hall Board to be formed.

In Boone County, the TLP staff members and participants benefit from collaboration with the Boone County Homeless Prevention Coalition. Coalition membership includes Salvation Army (shared supplies, prevention, emergency assistance), First United Methodist Church (identification of homeless and runaway youth), Red Rock Community Action (access to resources, emergency housing), Boone County Transportation (public transportation), Family Support Project (identification of community needs and strategies), Community Cares (mentoring), Workforce Development (employment assistance), and numerous health providers, law enforcement agencies, school districts, churches, and partnering service providers.

Marshall County

In Marshalltown, the Marshall/Hardin Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) meets the 4th Wednesday of the month from noon-1:00 at the Fisher Community Center in Marshalltown. Participants/members include the directors of the local homeless and domestic violence shelters, school representatives, local service group members, substance abuse counselors, mental health providers, former homeless citizens, and YSS staff. The LHCB members work to enhance accessibility and availability of low-income housing options, and work collaboratively to explore and address contributing factors of homelessness in Marshall County.

The Marshall/Hardin County Homeless Coordinating Board (MH HCB), whose members include Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Center (until 9/1/2013), ACCESS, House of Compassion YSS, and MICA, has developed an interagency MOU that reflects the joint planning and coordination of services in Marshall County. The MOU is attached in the Exhibits.

Polk County

In Des Moines, IHYC (Des Moines-based community branch of YSS) participates in the Polk County Housing Continuum (PCHC) which is the homeless services coordinating board for this community. The PCHC, which serves metropolitan Des Moines, has a general membership meeting the third Wednesday of each month. Key partners include health services providers (e.g., Visiting Nurse Services, Primary Health Care), homeless and housing services (e.g., Youth Emergency Services and Shelter, Central Iowa Shelter and Services, Anawim), Des Moines Area Religious Council, treatments services (e.g., Powell Chemical Dependency Center), counseling and skills training organizations (e.g., Young Women's Resource Center, Employee and Family Resources, Planned Parenthood), and various schools, law enforcement, and other service agencies.

IHYC and the PCHC work to raise community awareness of homelessness through collaborative public relations events which are often staged during Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. IHYC also works with the PCHC to submit a Continuum of Care application to HUD which each year brings millions of dollars of funding for homeless services in Polk County. A letter from the PCHC is included in the Exhibits.

Story County

The Housing Coordinating Board (HCB) of Story County meets on the first Thursday of every other month to discuss community (Ames and Story County) events, needs, and availability of resources. A Housing Steering Committee meets on the first Thursday of the off months at YSS to plan for the full HCB meetings. The mission is to "Advocate, educate, plan and coordinate efforts in order to ensure the supply of affordable housing." Resources discussed include available beds/rooms, funding available, recent events (fires, weather-related disasters, homelessness, etc.), and strategies for combining these resources. The HCB, of which YSS is the lead agency, has diverse board members from a variety of community sectors working specifically to address the gaps in the Continuum of Care for homeless or potentially homeless individuals and families. Members of the HCB may work directly with the homeless population or indirectly through support and preventative services such as mental health or financial credit counseling. Meeting minutes are kept and sent to all members of the Board whether present at the meetings or not.

Members of the HCB include a variety of community agencies and individuals. The HCB core participants are Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS), Emergency Residence Project, YSS, Salvation Army, Story County Community Services, Mid-Iowa Community Action, City of Ames personnel, Ames Community Schools, Veteran's Affairs, Home for A While, and local churches. Other collaborations are with the Department of Human Services (DHS), local police department, sheriff's department, Juvenile Court Services, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Consumer Credit Counseling, Ames Planning and Housing Commission, and other non-profit organizations that work with homeless or at-risk populations.

These agencies refer homeless and at-risk of homeless people to the appropriate agencies almost daily. However, the level of collaboration between these agencies goes beyond referrals. For example, if an agency's financial resources are used before the end of the month (which occurs frequently) the agency calls the other HCB agencies to inquire about funds available and to let them know that they will be sending people seeking assistance their way.

ACCESS domestic violence shelter, Emergency Residence Project, and Youth and Shelter Services have signed an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (included in Exhibits) to agree and document the joint planning and coordination of services to homeless and at-risk individuals in Story County. Also participating in the county homelessness efforts are Salvation Army and Story County Community Services (a funding source through the local ASSET process), which have both provided letters of support (also included in Exhibits).

The Story Co HCB continues the process of exploring the shift from coordinated intake to centralized intake. The vision remains to have a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) or Central Intake Coordinating Agency that is knowledgeable of all community resources available at any given time (beds, funding, food, etc.). Additionally, this SPOC person or agency would track data on services provided by all HCB agencies and other measurements. Identified benefits of a SPOC or Centralized Intake system include reducing

duplication of efforts, appropriate and timely referrals, simplifying processes for those in need, improved identification of gaps in continuum of care (CoC), improved data and resource accuracy and management, and many others.

The YSS representative to the HCB is also active in the Iowa Council on Homelessness and the Council's Coordinated Intake and Progress Engagement Committee. The mission of this statewide collaboration is to bring together agencies across the Balance of State region of Iowa "...to create and sustain an integrative and coordinated process to reduce or eliminate the negative consequences of being homeless for all Iowans." Tools for intake assessment are being reviewed and members are seeking networking input from other areas that have implemented similar intake structures for homeless services to cover large geographic areas and to include multiple service agencies.

Story County benefits from the willingness among community stakeholders to work together toward common goals and to capitalize on the combined efforts of many organizations and individuals to create sustainable changes over time. Community providers, including YSS, have worked collaboratively to develop and maintain an online Story County Resource Guide to provide easy access to information about valuable community resources. In addition, YSS and other Story HCB members collaborate with and share common members with the Story County Hunger Coalition, which works to resolve hunger and food insecurity issues in Story County. Also many Story HCB agencies, including YSS, participate in the Story County Quality of Life Alliance (SCQLA). SCQLA brings together the efforts of health and human service providers to promote health and quality of life across Story County, in part through collaborative countywide needs assessments and quarterly meetings to discuss progress toward identified health improvement goals.

3. Describe how your agency is participating in the planning body described above. Be as specific as possible, including staff members that attend, current projects, timelines, etc. (3 points)*

All four YSS-led homeless coordinating boards are exploring the benefits, strategies and other aspects of centralized intake. In the upcoming year all boards will continue to explore their options in this regard.

Boone County

YSS has networks with many social service organizations through the Boone County Homeless Prevention Board/Homeless Prevention Coalition (HPB/HPC) and Human Service Council, and the agency is a strong advocate to reduce homelessness in Boone County. The HPB/HPC and Human Service Council core participants are Boone County Hospital, Department of Human Services, Salvation Army, local police department, Sheriff's department, Boone County Public Health, Iowa State University Extension, Richmond Center, ACCESS, Red Rock Community Action, Des Moines Area Community College, Genesis Developmental Center, Boone School District including the alternative high school, and churches. Hope Metheny, TLP coordinator of Boone and Story Counties, has chaired this board.

With the restructuring of the HPB/HPC, YSS will not be on the Crawford Hall Board. However, YSS TLP program Case Manager, Theresa Angle, will chair the restructured Boone Homeless Prevention Coalition.

YSS is been the lead entity of the Boone County Homeless Prevention Board, and now the Homeless Prevention Coalition, which has diverse board members that work specifically to address the needs and gaps in the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the homeless or potentially homeless individuals and families. Members of the group may be a previous homeless individual, work directly with a homeless person in need of emergency shelter, or indirectly in the form of support or preventative services which can be found by accessing local food pantries, rental or utility assistance, mental health or financial credit counseling.

Marshall County

The director of YSS Marshall County, David Hicks, serves as chair of the Marshall County Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB). Other staff members regularly attend and serve on subcommittees to identify and expand low-income housing options, and to evaluate the possible causes of homelessness in Marshall County.

Marshall County YSS TLP staff and other LHCB members work closely with agencies and organizations. Among these service agencies are Primary Health (health care), Salvation Army (immediate needs), House

of Compassion (identification and support for homeless youth), Trinity Lutheran Church (faith-based services if needed and housing for TLP clients), Iowa Valley Education Association (educational/schooling services), Workforce Development (employment resources), Community Action (program promotion and identification of youth in need of assistance), Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center (shelter), and numerous other health care organizations, school districts, law enforcement agencies, and government officials. YSS TLP staff members are exploring partnership with Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS) for domestic violence services as the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center will be closing as of 9/1/2013. ACCESS currently provides services in Boone, Greene, and Story Counties.

Polk County

In Des Moines the Transitional Living and Street Outreach program staff and participants benefit from active partnerships and collaborations with dozens of local partners through the Polk County Housing Continuum (PCHC). IHYC Director Brad Whipple is on the PCHC Board of Directors and is currently chairperson. Former IHYC Director Trish Harlow and former IHYC Resources Coordinator, Jim McWeeny, were past chairs of the PCHC Board of Directors.

IHYC partners with the other agencies in the PCHC to identify needs, research strategies, and coordinate services. Key PCHC partnering agencies and the benefits/services they provide include: Visiting Nurse Services (on-site nursing services to young mothers at the Lighthouse TLP facility and for homeless mothers and their children identified through Street Outreach), Primary Health Care (free medical services and training for youth, case management), Youth Emergency Services and Shelter (emergency beds for youth under 18. IHYC and YESS also work together in child/parent unification efforts), Central Iowa Shelter and Services (emergency shelter for youth above 18 if IHYC beds are full, job placement services), Des Moines Area Religious Council (food, mainstream support services), Employee and Family Resources (financial literacy and job training); Planned Parenthood (parenting education), Anawim (permanent housing), Powell Chemical Dependency Center (substance abuse treatment), Young Women's Resource Center (counseling), as well as numerous schools, law enforcement agencies, and other service organizations.

Story County

In Story County, the YSS networks with many social service organizations through the Housing Coordinating Board (HCB) and is a strong advocate to reduce homelessness in Story County. YSS Associate CEO Roberta Milinsky is a member of the HCB and TLP coordinator, Hope Metheny, chairs the board.

In addition to the members of the HCB, the Story County TLP program has active partnerships with a variety of local agencies and organizations including Mary Greeley Hospital, Iowa Workforce Development, McFarland Clinic, local school districts, law enforcement agencies, public health and DHS, United Way, City of Ames, Cy-Ride and Iowa State University, Mid Iowa Community Action, and numerous local and state government agencies. These partners provide a range of valuable services for the TLP participants that include transportation, education, skill-building, employment and educational assistance, mental and physical health care, and many others. For example, AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) includes Story County in the Project IOWA initiative. Project IOWA is a workforce development project to bridge underemployed persons seeking living wage careers and employers seeking workers. Participants gain skills employers need and soft skills necessary for successful long term employment.

Story HCB also partners with the City of Ames, and other community stakeholders in the One Voice, One Community public forum events on hunger and homelessness. The events are part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The most recent event was held November 12, 2012. Those in attendance received updates from housing and food/hunger service providers and coalitions (including YSS' Roberta Milinsky), and participants were given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss homelessness and hunger issues in the local community.

4. Identify the most pressing barriers to stable housing in your community. Provide statistics and specific information as applicable. Specify the source(s) for your information. (3 points)*

In each of the communities served through this application, the availability of affordable housing plays a

key role as a barrier to stable housing. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) reports (March 2013) that in Iowa the hourly wage needed to afford a two bedroom apartment is \$12.97. A minimum wage earner would need to work nearly 72 hours per week to reach the same level of income to afford the same two bedroom apartment. According to the Iowa Council on Homelessness, the primary cause of homelessness as reported by its users is "economics".

Boone County

There is a shortage of affordable housing in Boone County. NLIHC data from March 2013 reflect a deficit of affordable and available rental units in the Iowa 4th Congressional District (which includes both Boone and Story counties) totaling 12,183 for households with incomes at or below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), and a deficit of 4,131 for households with incomes at or below 50% of the AMI. The Section 8 housing program for Boone County is coordinated through Central Iowa regional Housing Authority (CIRHA). There is a waiting list of approximately one year for the Section 8 program in Boone County.

Individual determinants of health and well-being, such as substance use issues, also present barriers to permanent housing. In the YSS Boone TLP program, approximately 50% of youth served have a substance use issue, which bring additional challenges for these youth in meeting housing goals.

Marshall County

Persons living below the poverty level in Marshalltown is estimated at 15.4% (US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year average for 2007 - 2011), which is higher than the state rate of 11.9% and the national rate of 14.3%. The median household income (US Census Bureau, ACS, 2007-2011 average) in Marshalltown is 10.9% less than the Iowa average and 14.8% less than the National average. Further evidence of the economic struggles of families in the Marshalltown area is the Iowa Department of Education data for the Marshalltown school district. During the 2012-13 school year, 70% of students were eligible for either free or reduced lunches, which was higher than the state average (40%).

NLIHC data reflects that in Iowa's 1st Congressional District, which includes Marshall County, 20% of renter households are severely burdened meaning the households spend more than 50% of income on housing costs, including utilities; for renter households with incomes at or below 30% of the AMI the percentage categorized as burdened increases to 62%. US Census Bureau American Community Survey data average for 2007-2011 reflect that in Marshalltown 38.2% of renter households were spending 35% or more of their household income on gross rent, exceeding the state percent of 36.5%.

Compounding the issue is that the Section 8 waiting list is nearly six months long in Marshalltown. NLIHC data indicates Iowa's 1st Congressional District has an estimated deficit of affordable rental units totaling 2,860 and a deficit of affordable AND available rental units totaling 12,305.

Polk County

In Iowa's 3rd Congressional District, which includes Polk County/Des Moines, renters make up 28% of all households, and 18% of all renter households are severely burdened. For renters with incomes at or below 30% of the AMI, 61% are severely burdened. Compounding this issue is that there is a deficit of affordable and available rental units totaling 13,166 for renters with incomes at or below 30% of the AMI, and a deficit of 4,017 rental units for those households at or below 50% of the AMI.

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of Polk County renter households spend 35% or more of household income on gross rent, while in Des Moines this rate increased to nearly 43% (US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2007-2011 average). In addition, the Des Moines school district had nearly 72% of the student population who were eligible for either free or reduced lunches during the 2012-13 school year, demonstrating the economic challenges facing families with children.

Story County

As noted previously regarding data from the NLIHC for the 3rd Congressional District, there is also a shortage of affordable housing in Story County. The City of Ames did an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study in 2008, which identified 'cost of housing' and 'the lack of available decent rental units in affordable price ranges' as the primary issues. As noted previously, CIRHA coordinates the Story County Section 8 housing program that has a waiting list of approximately one year. In addition, the

presence of Iowa State University, with a student population of more than 31,000, adds competition for available affordable housing units.

The US Census Bureau 2011 estimate of Story County persons living below the poverty level is 21.3%, which is higher than the state rate (12.79%) and the national rate (15.9%). Those individuals who have lived in Story County less than six (6) months are not eligible for emergency assistance services through the Story County Community Services office, which includes assistance for rent, utilities, food vouchers, emergency medical treatment and prescriptions, and other basic needs. Individuals not eligible for the County emergency assistance services are referred to other service providers in the Story County area who operate with extremely limited resources. Another barrier in Story County is that the job market has service industry job however there are not a lot of jobs in Story County that provide an affordable living wage.

5. Describe your community's strategy to ensure 100% participation in the ServicePoint Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), or comparable database for DV providers, by all providers of homeless services in your community. Describe how your community determines which service agencies are participating in the data system. Also describe your agency's role in this effort. (5 points)*

YSS employs the chairpersons for all four homeless coordinating boards in the counties served by this application. As an agency who frequently accesses HMIS data for reports, identification of community needs, grants and for program evaluation, these chairpersons are very aware of the value of accurate and timely HMIS data entry and the participation of all relevant agencies.

In Boone County, the Homeless Prevention Board is discussing HMIS entry and coordinated intake and keeping updated on statewide efforts. The Boone Homeless Prevention Board/Homeless Prevention Coalition has been working to address issues of affordable living wages and transportation issues in the area.

The Marshall County Local Homeless Coordinating Board members have also agreed upon and signed a similar MOU indicating a commitment to participation in accurate and timely HMIS data entry.

In Des Moines, according to the 2011 Polk County Continuum of Care application, HMIS participation is at a very high level in that county with over 86% of homeless service providers submitting data. 100% of transitional housing and emergency shelter service providers submitted income for the January 2011 Point In Time Count. The Polk County Housing Continuum has frequent discussions among its members about continued progress toward 100% participation in HMIS.

In Story County, the YSS-chaired Housing Coordinating Board has worked with the provider of the local adult homeless shelter to implement a plan to ensure entry of their data into HMIS. The Story Co HCB is very aware of the need for collaboration and 100% participation in HMIS data entry. As such, all HCB housing agency members, including the agency who, up to this time, had not entered data into HMIS, have agreed to and signed an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that includes a section stating 'All agencies have made a commitment to participation in HMIS (Service Point) for data collection. ACCESS uses a state approved alternate HMIS system.'

6. List and describe the top five community partnerships that impact your clients' success. You may upload MOUs or letters of support in the Exhibits section to support your response; if doing so, be sure to indicate this in your response. (10 points)*

Boone County

~ ACCESS (i.e., Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support) provides outreach services to Boone County, with emergency shelter services provided in Story County. The expertise of ACCESS staff members is essential in meeting the needs of Boone TLP youth who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault as they seek permanent housing.

~ Salvation Army in Boone County provides is a partner in homeless prevention efforts. Their services include rent and utilities assistance for families facing homelessness.

~ Red Rock Community Action Inc. works with YSS TLP staff members and other community agencies to meet needs of homeless individuals and families. Red Rock provides safe and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals, Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), emergency utility and rent assistance for those facing homelessness, and emergency food pantry and crisis intervention services (e.g., repair/replace furnaces, heaters, blankets, fans, air conditioners). A letter of support from Red Rock Community Action, Inc., is included in the exhibits.

~ Given transportation challenges in Boone County, the HIRTA Public Transit services are an important in meeting the needs of program participants. Most YSS TLP program youth do not have access to their own transportation. HIRTA provides services to help youth achieve education, employment, and permanent housing goals.

~ Crawford Hall Family Shelter in Boone is also an essential partner in meeting the emergency shelter needs and in address homelessness in Boone County.

Marshall County

Numerous health care organizations, school districts, law enforcement agencies, and government officials play a role in the success of the Marshall County TLP participants. Among the top community partnerships are the following:

~ The spectrum of shelter housing needs varies. To meet the diverse needs of Marshall County's homeless population requires the continued collaborative efforts of

1) the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center (and to include ACCESS) to serve those experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault;

2) the House of Compassion to provide emergency shelter and meals for individuals and families;

3) YSS to meet the needs of young men and women and pregnant/parenting females;

4) Mid Iowa Community Action to provide rapid rehousing and emergency rent assistance for families experiencing homelessness or near homelessness. MICA is also the local agency that coordinates Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) services, and Head Start programming for Marshalltown and the surrounding communities.

Each of these agencies has indicated their continued support in a Memorandum of Understanding, which is attached in the exhibits.

~ Addressing health and dental care needs is important toward advancing an individual's overall well-being. In Marshalltown, Primary Health Care community health center services helps to meet the needs of the medically insured, uninsured, and underinsured. They are a member of the local homeless board and a key partner is serving the homeless in the area.

~ The Salvation Army in Marshalltown continues to be a partner in meeting the immediate needs of individuals in the community, including those who are homeless or near homeless. The Salvation Army works closely with all homeless serving agencies to ensure needs are being met.

~ YSS TLP staff members work closely with Iowa Valley Education Association to ensure the educational needs of the TLP program participants are met.

~ Workforce Development serves as an important resource for TLP participants to find employment resources and jobs in the Marshalltown area.

Polk County

In Polk County the following partnerships are vital in addressing the needs of homeless individuals and the needs of TLP program participants.

~ To address health needs, Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) partners with IHYC to connect youth to Health Start Services designed to provide well-being care for mothers and their children, while Early ACCESS Iowa helps to link youth to coordinated services from Iowa Departments of Education, Public Health, and Human Services, as well as to the services of Child Health specialty Clinics.

~ As a partner to meet the language and cultural diversity needs of program participants, IHYC partners with Creative Visions and Urban Dreams, which are inner city programs that work particularly with African American teens, and with Proteus, Hispanic Educational Resources (HER), and La Clinica, to meet the needs of Hispanic and Latino program participants.

~ Metro Des Moines Police work closely with program staff members through making referrals when they encounter runaway and homeless youth in need of services, and to help staff work with participants to obtain no contact orders against people threatening to harm them or their children.

~ Polk County Housing Continuum service providers visit the IHYC Street Outreach Program to inform youth participants of services available and how to access resources within the community. A letter of support from the Housing Continuum is provided in the exhibits.

~ The services of Children and Families of Iowa (CFI) and Young Women's Resource Center (YWRC) are

utilized to meet the needs of program participants who identify as victims of abuse who need counseling or other services.

~ Housing supports such as Section 8 programming through the City of Des Moines, and permanent housing programs options available through Anawim Housing and the Des Moines Municipal Housing Authority, partner to help participants learn of available housing resources.

Story County

As in each community served by YSS, many stakeholders partner their efforts in Story County to address homelessness issues.

~ Many homeless youth have experienced abuse. ACCESS provides safe and supportive services and resources for individuals who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault. ACCESS provides emergency shelter services, and they provide supports to help participants seek permanent housing and financial stability. ACCESS is one of the local Housing Board partners to sign Memorandum of Understanding included in the exhibits.

~ Emergency Residence Project (ERP) provides homeless prevention services for those facing eviction or loss of utilities, emergency shelter, and transitional housing for families. Services target adults and families who are homeless or near homeless. ERP is another local Housing Board partners that has signed the Memorandum of Understanding included in the exhibits.

~ Salvation Army in Story County provides homeless prevention services, including rent and utilities assistance for families facing homelessness, and rapid rehousing to help homeless families secure suitable housing. A letter of support from the Salvation Army in Ames is attached in the exhibits.

~ Story County Community Services continues to be a valuable partner in local efforts to help individuals and families near homelessness. The collaboration extends to the providing a continuum of care for participants in the Story County TLP program to help meet identified physical, mental health, and/or substance abuse needs service needs. In addition, Story County provides funding support to YSS for youth and families services provided in the county. Story County Community Services has provided a letter of support that is included in the exhibits.

~ The partnership with Mid Iowa Community Action is important in the continuum of care for program participants to help meet needs through various emergency assistance services such as a food pantry, health screenings, basic dental care, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Performance Outcome Measurement

If your agency uses the ServicePoint Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect client data, follow the link below for directions to produce the Performance Outcome Report. This report will be uploaded in the separate Exhibits section of this application. Use this report to answer the following questions, as applicable. For report assistance, contact the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances at (515) 246-6643.

ServicePoint Performance Outcome Report Instructions

If your agency is primarily a domestic violence (DV) victim services provider, using a comparable DV database such as ALICE to collect client information, print an APR report for the time period of January 1, through December 31, 2012. This will typically include aggregate information regarding the following: number of persons/households served, physical/mental health conditions at entry and exit, residence prior to entry, veteran status, cash income amount at entry and exit, non-cash benefits at entry and exit, length of participation, and destination at exit. This report will be uploaded in the separate Exhibits section of this application. Use this report to answer some of the following questions.

If your agency does not currently use the ServicePoint HMIS system or comparable database for domestic violence victim services providers, you must answer the following questions fully explaining the parameters of your internal database. In the Exhibits section, upload a report from your system that contains client outcome data for the period January 1, through December 31, 2012.

1. Briefly summarize the results of the reports that are included with your application, such as destination upon program exit, changes in client employment/income, and mainstream resource access. What do these results indicate about your program? If these results don't accurately capture the success of your program, explain why not. (10 points)*

Boone County

In Boone County, 11 total participants took advantage of TLP services, 8 of whom were 18 or older. The

average length of stay in the program was 216 days, which is a 137% increase compared with the average for the 2011 calendar year. Only one of the participants gained employment while in the program. In Boone, there are few opportunities for employment, and participants' time in the TLP program frequently take advantage of other financial resources. As a reflection of this trend, 63% of the participants had cash income at exit.

As a smaller county, it is sometimes easier to connect participants to government resources. The Boone TLP has been successful in signing homeless youth up for SNAP benefits. Twice as many (6) participants had SNAP at exit than at entry. Also, the number of participants who had Medicaid at exit increased by 150%, which means that 10 of 11 participants were connected to Medicaid resources during their time in the program.

At exit, six (6) of 11 participants had found permanent living arrangement with family or friends. One participant rented with subsidies, one participant exited to emergency shelter, two participants were temporarily living with family or friends, and the remaining participant went to a destination categorized as 'Other'. The number of clients served decreased slightly in 2012 compared to 2011, however the length of stay in the Boone TLP significantly increased. YSS believes the TLP program approach provides a better alternative to emergency shelter because of the connections to resources, individualized case management, and skill-development from which participants benefit.

Marshall County

In Marshall County the TLP program served 61 total participants. 30 of these were 18 years or older. Of the 18+, the average length of stay in the program was 141 days. Forty percent of the clients (12) 18 years and older were not employed upon entry but gained employment during their time in the program. Another 23% maintained their employment, so 63% of the participants 18 years old and older were employed at exit.

25 (83%) of the participants had cash income upon exit, including six (6) who had earned income, and one (1) who was receiving TANF at exit. However, only 14 of 30 (47%) of participants increased their income by at least \$250. This is yet another demonstration of the lack of quality-paying jobs in Marshall County.

Fifteen participants gained Medicaid benefits while in the program, eight gained WIC non-cash benefit, and ten gained SNAP (food assistance) benefits. The living situation results at exit were largely positive. Twenty-three percent (14 participants) moved into permanent living situation with family, and another 23% secured permanent living with friends. 16% were able to rent by themselves without a subsidy, and another 15% rented with housing assistance. The few remaining participants were split among detention facility, hotel without voucher, psychiatric hospital/facility, transitional housing for homeless, and temporarily staying with friends. This temporary living with friends (aka couch surfing) is frequently identified by youth as a viable living situation, but program staff point out that staying on someone's couch is not, in fact, a safe and sustainable living situation.

Polk County

58% of youth (42 of 72) moved into permanent housing situations upon discharge from IHYC Transitional Living Programs (TLP) in 2012. Use of Medicaid by IHYC TLP participants increased by 12% during program enrollment for 2012, while enrollment to receive Food Stamps increased by 41% in the same time period. Staff indicates that this is a positive sign of mainstream resource usage. Prior to enrollment in Medicaid many youth use emergency rooms for common illnesses or leave medical conditions untreated. Enrollment in Medicaid is seen by staff as a sign of youth taking proactive measures to improve their health. Similarly enrollment in Food Stamps is also seen by staff as a positive step taken by youth to access mainstream resources. Receiving Food Stamps is often an indication that youth, particularly those with infant children, are taking serious steps to obtain nutritious food for their family and themselves.

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of youth maintained or improved cash income while in IHYC TLPs in 2012, while 63% maintained or improved their employment in 2012. Youth are by and large improving their economic situation while in IHYC TLPs but jobs are hard to come by. Given the national difficulty people are having obtaining work this is hardly surprising. Still IHYC will continue to improve efforts to help youth obtain and maintain employment.

Story County

In Story County, the ServicePoint report states that 10 adults were served during the year and 22 total clients when including youth under age 18 and clients' children. There was an average length of stay of 173 days, which is a 26% increase from the previous year and a 49% increase from 2010. Forty-one percent (41%) of the participants served in the program left between the first and third months, however, none were recorded as leaving the program within the first month. Seventy percent (70%) of participants 18 years and older were employed at exit from the program. Thirty percent (30%) of participants who were not employed upon program entry gained employment during their time in the program, and only one participant who was employed at entry was not employed upon exit.

Eighty percent (80%) of the clients had some sort of cash income at discharge, with 70% maintaining cash income and 10% improving. There was an increase of at least \$250 by 30% of the clients served, which is a decrease from the 44% last year. Regarding other benefits, seven participants had Medicaid and 3 had Medicare at program entry, while at exit from the program 16 participant reported having Medicaid and 3 still had Medicare. There was a 75% increase in the number of participants receiving SNAP assistance at exit compared with those receiving this benefit at the time of program entry.

Upon exiting the program, 36% moved to a permanent situation of either rental property with no housing subsidy (n=5), or permanent tenure with family (n=3), which is a decrease from the previous year's 53%. One youth moved into emergency shelter or voucher-paid motel, one entered a juvenile detention facility, two entered non-psychiatric hospitals, and ten participants were temporarily living with family or friends.

Every effort is made to keep youth involved until safe and permanent housing can be found, but as a voluntary program, it is ultimately up to the youth.

Results indicate our program is good at getting participants connected with resources such as Medicaid and food assistance. YSS' TLP programs have generally been very good at finding employment for youth also, and in the past year 30% gained employment and 40% maintained employment. More participants obtained employment and increased financial resources while in the program, but were not employed upon exit, so they aren't included as employed in the reporting. Also, only youth over 18 are included in this data, while our programs serve youth 16 and over, so many of the statistics do not match the others.

These results also indicate that the program works at connecting clients to cash benefits as 80% of the clients had some sort of cash income at discharge. The majority of cash income is through earned income.

We expected to see a higher percentage of clients moving into rental housing with no housing subsidy than clients moving in with family. Again, this likely is partially attributable to the identified lack of affordable housing in Story County. The number of clients who left within the first 30 days and how early exit affects the overall data collected is also noteworthy. We believe the TLP programs are better suited than emergency beds at developing the skills and knowledge clients need to become independent and successful adults. We work with our clients to set financial and other goals upon entry, and these results reflect this effort.

2. Identify the level of your agency's data completeness/quality into the ServicePoint HMIS system, comparable DV database, or internal database. What steps are being taken to improve data completeness and quality? (3 points)*

Of the five attached outcome reports (Lighthouse and Buchanan TLP in Des Moines, Story County TLP, Boone County TLP and Marshall County TLP), all required data is complete and accurate. In addition to HMIS/ServicePoint data, TLP staff compiles much data for HHS's RHYMIS system (via VisionWorks), as well as keeping extensive intake, case management, outcome and other data internally. As a provider of case management and services to thousands of youth per year across the agency, YSS regards accurate and complete data entry as a critical step in maintaining and evaluating quality programs.

All TLP coordinators and case managers meet quarterly to discuss data, outcomes and other important program details. Quality data is key to identifying trends, successes and concerns. YSS believes it collects and compiles quality data that exceeds what is required by granting agencies. However, at each meeting it is noticed that at least some data is less than adequate for our needs, so we recognize that accurate and timely data is an ongoing and important concern.

A noticeable and frequently mentioned issue with ServicePoint among TLP staff is the fact that not all data fields for these reports allow entry of data for youth under 18 years old (employment, cash income, etc). Our programs serve youth over 16 so some of the data fields and overall numbers are inconsistent with the fields that allow for all ages' data to be entered. This can be confusing and misleading when compiling overall numbers and data for program and outcome data evaluation. Additionally, TLP staff use a variety of other outcome data in their reports that our staff and management have found very helpful in evaluating the success of our programs as well as identifying community needs. Perhaps some of the information from the Continuum of Care APR reports or other federal MIS could be included.

Another data-related concern frequently mentioned by TLP staff is having to enter the same or similar data into multiple systems (ServicePoint and VisionWorks). This redundancy is time consuming and at times confusing for TLP staff. It is understood that there have been discussions about merging or sharing systems among federal agencies. We believe our program provides a strong argument in support of management information systems consolidation.

3. Identify the level of your agency's data timeliness in the ServicePoint HMIS system, comparable DV database, or internal database. What steps are being taken to improve data timeliness? (3 points)*

Accurate and timely data is a key focus for all TLP staff. ServicePoint HMIS data is entered at a variety of intervals by staff across YSS' TLP program. As indicated in the outcome reports attached, participant data is entered anywhere from within one day to over a month. These variances exist for a number of reasons. First, TLP clients remain with the program for a longer average time than most other homeless provider programs. Because some participants are with the program for a longer duration, the program requires only that data be entered and compiled in time for the quarterly TLP quality assurance meetings or other instances upon request. The primary focus of the data entry is accuracy and quality of data. It is possible that data entry timeliness could be improved and be more consistent with the consolidation of federal MIS systems.

TLP coordinators and staff conduct quarterly Quality Improvement meetings. In addition, TLP staff also meet semi-annually to review and report on the submission of data and to discuss changes or improvements identified as necessary.

4. How else have you determined if the assistance provided by your program was effective in meeting clients' needs for housing stability? (4 points)*

Youth involved in the TLP and SOP programs are given assessments at intake, exit and intervals in between to measure their knowledge of community resources, skills and confidence in their ability to live independently. Also, by developing and following individualized case plans, the TLP staff and participants have a virtual 'map' against which to measure program success for each participant.

In addition, follow up contact with all discharged TLP participants will be made by their former case manager, regularly, after exiting the TLP program in order to assess program effectiveness. Staff inquire about the living situation, education, employment, well-being, and permanent connections, among others. All major goals and outcomes will continue to be tracked in follow-up services. YSS staff will document and record data about living situation, number of contacts made, and other metrics from former TLP participants in the case files and database. Data is compiled and included with the regular TLP reports and discussed at the TLP outcome meetings.

Additionally, when youth are leaving the TLP program, exit counseling takes place. Meetings are set up to facilitate the transition away from the facilities as well as to help the youth identify continuing needs and make necessary postexit connections. Special needs funding is available, if needed, to help youth with their exit plan. Written exit plans outline how the young person will continue to focus on safety, education, building upon life skills learned, community connections, mental and physical well-being, housing, employment, finances and if applicable, parenting goals.

Youth leaving the program provide forwarding contact information. In addition to address, phone number

and email, staff encourages participants to provide alternative methods of contact including social media such as Facebook. Participants are given booklets and brochures with contact information on social service resources, community maps and other items necessary for independent living. Staff encourages participants to contact them with future needs and concerns if needed.

Even after they have left the program, youth are encouraged to continue to participate in life skills training during regular meetings. Young people are contacted when specific trainings occur. These services and trainings are offered to the SOP participants as well. Program effectiveness for the SOP program, in addition to the internal recordkeeping, is measured through follow up contacts with street youth whenever possible. This can be a challenge if street youth are provided services and not seen again, as is the case at times with transient youth. Regular communication with partnering agencies takes place to help track homeless youth.

All key TLP and SOP staff meet quarterly to discuss program outcomes, successes, staffing, and areas needing improvement. Data from HMIS, internal record-keeping, and other systems is evaluated, compiled into a report and compared. Outcomes and data that falls below expectations is highlighted in the group's discussions to determine possible causes and strategies for correcting the situation.

5. Based on your agency's current outcome measures, where do you see the greatest opportunity to make improvements in how services are provided? (4 points)*

As was noted previously, all program locations are working with their communities to advance efforts toward Centralized Intake among stakeholder organizations to ensure more efficient referral to appropriate programs and services based upon individual and family needs of who are homeless and those near homelessness. These efforts will continue in all four communities over the next year.

Boone County

In Boone County, YSS TLP staff members and other community stakeholders are exploring the issue of employment opportunities for youth. There are few jobs available in the community and youth have a difficult time securing employment that provides affordable living wages. The Boone TLP program has been the pilot project site for the federal Support Systems Rural Homeless Youth demonstration project in Iowa, funded through the Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The ROC (Rural Opportunities Connections) pilot project goal has been to increase connections for youth in 1) survival support (stable housing, health care, and substance abuse and mental health services), 2) community connections (youth and adult partnerships, mentoring, peer support groups, and volunteering), and 3) education/ employment (high school/ GED completion, training, jobs, college). Lessons from ROC are being used to help TLP staff members map a strategic plan to provide future support services for rural homeless youth and youth at-risk of homelessness.

Marshall County

In Marshall County, community stakeholders are partnering with CommonBond Communities (Minneapolis) as the company rehabilitates the Tallcorn Towers into Marshalltown's largest housing project. The finished rehabilitated building will feature 49 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom urban loft style apartments. 60% of the apartments will be below market rent and based on income/provider involvement. The Marshall County TLP housing participants will be able to access these apartments much easier as the YSS program staff will continue to provide case management services.

The number of participants exiting the Marshall TLP program with an increase of at least \$250 in cash income remains low. Staff members will work with community stakeholders in the Marshall County area to explore options for helping homeless individuals and families achieve livable wage employment opportunities.

Polk County

The 2012 performance report reflected a decrease in Polk TLP participants who exited the program to permanent housing when compared with the prior year. To improve the percent of participants exiting to safe housing locations, staff members will enhance efforts to develop individualized case plans, drawn up

between the participant and the Case Manager. Case plans, written within days of a youth's admission into the program, establish housing, education and employment goals and also map out strategies for meeting individual challenges ranging from anger management to substance abuse.

Story County

The 2012 performance report reflected a decrease in Story TLP participants who exited the program to permanent housing situations. TLP staff members will use strategies to engage participants in their personal program involvement and goal setting regarding education, employment, and permanent housing. TLP staff members will continue existing successful efforts to connect participants with various community resources to meet the continuum of care needs of each participating young person.

Fewer participants exited the program in 2012 with an increase of at least \$250 in cash income. Staff members will continue to work with AMOS in the PROJECT Iowa initiative to help eligible participants gain employment skills that will lead to livable wage employment opportunities.

Budget

In the table that follows, provide a budget detail for the requested funding. List your Expense Categories, then provide a brief description. For example, if you are requesting funding for Shelter - Essential Services, describe the Essential Services you plan to provide. There is no limit on the amount of funds that may be requested; however, most awards will range from \$50,000 - \$100,000, as described in the General Information section of this application.

Action	Activity Type	Description	Amount of Request
	Street Outreach	Street Outreach Advocates - .39 FTE @ \$25,214 Will provide outreach, engagement, case management, emergency health/mental health services, and transportation for homeless street youth.	\$9,900.00
	Street Outreach	Outreach Van expense. The Mobile Outreach Homeless Runaway Youth (MOHRY) Van is used to provide outreach services for homeless youth wherever they are located.	\$7,600.00
	Shelter - Operations	Youth Outreach Center utilities (Des Moines).	\$6,500.00
	Shelter - Operations	Outreach Center repairs and maintenance (Des Moines).	\$10,000.00
	Shelter - Essential Services	Youth Specialists (Lighthouse and Buchanan TLP Centers in Des Moines) - .31 FTE @ \$25,510 To provide case management, support, referral to services, intake and assessment for homeless youth entering TLP.	\$8,000.00
	Shelter - Operations	Lighthouse and Buchanan TLP Centers utilities (Des Moines).	\$8,000.00
	Shelter - Essential Services	TLP Coordinator Boone County - .03 FTE at \$33,094. To provide coordinate and oversee the TLP services and staff, and monitor the progress of youth participants in the TLP program.	\$1,000.00
	Shelter - Essential Services	TLP Case Manager Boone County - .03 FTE at \$26,790 To provide case management, support, referral to services, intake and assessment for homeless youth entering TLP.	\$806.00
	Shelter - Operations	Boone TLP facilities utilities.	\$1,500.00
	Shelter - Operations	Boone TLP facilities repairs and maintenance.	\$5,500.00
	Shelter - Operations	Insurance for TLP facilities in Boone County.	\$2,000.00
	Shelter - Essential Services	Marshall County TLP Case Managers - .33 FTE at \$27,000. To provide case management, support, referral to services, intake and assessment for homeless youth entering TLP.	\$8,800.00
	Shelter -	Marshall County TLP facilities rent	\$8,200.00

	Operations		
	Shelter - Operations	Marshall County TLP facilities utilities.	\$650.00
	Shelter - Operations	Story County TLP facilities rent	\$29,152.00
	Shelter - Operations	Story County TLP facilities utilities.	\$4,518.00
	Shelter - Operations	Story County TLP facilities repairs and maintenance.	\$3,000.00
	Shelter - Operations	Story Co TLP maintenance workers – .08 FTE @ \$34,114.	\$2,943.00
	Shelter - Operations	Boone, Marshall, and Story TLP supplies and equipment; includes postage, office supplies, computer support, and printing.	\$4,200.00
	Shelter - Operations	Phones/data plans for TLP staff @ \$506/month x 12 months.	\$6,061.00
			\$128,330.00

Provide a narrative explanation of your agency's budget request. If your request is less than \$50,000 or greater than \$100,000 (the typical expected amounts described in the General Information section), a thorough explanation is required. (4 points)*

Until the 2013 grant application, Youth and Shelter Services submitted grants for several programs, including the four TLP and one Street Outreach program that are included in this year's application. As only one application is allowed per agency, the five program requests are been combined into one.

The budget can be broken down as follows:

Staffing salaries: \$31,449

Utilities and Maintenance: \$39,668

Rent/Insurance: \$39,352

Misc. supplies and equipment: \$10,261

Outreach van expenses for Street Outreach: \$7,600

Match

Applicants MUST provide at least a one-to-one matching contribution, through either cash or noncash sources. Please provide potential sources and amounts for this matching requirement in the grid below. Indicate whether each source is committed or uncommitted. The total match should be at least as much as the total budget in the Budget section.

Match*

Action	Type of Matching Contribution	Description	Status	Amount
	Private Funds	Marshall County United Way funds.	Committed	\$15,000.00
	Private Funds	AVIVA funds to IHYC/YSS for Lighthouse TLP.	Committed	\$20,000.00
	Private Funds	Nationwide funds to IHYC/YSS for Street Outreach.	Committed	\$10,680.00
	Private Funds	Principal Financial funds to IHYC/YSS for Street Outreach.	Committed	\$15,000.00
	Noncash - Services	Over 6,150 hours of volunteer services are performed for Street Outreach and TLP clients each year in Des Moines, Ames, Boone and Marshalltown. Services include helping homeless youth with vital daily activities, connecting youth to local resources, homework assistance, resume and job-related assistance, and learning necessary skills needed for living independently. Wage equivalent set as equal to employed Youth Specialists who have similar duties and make around \$11/hr. 6,150 hours x \$11 = \$67,650.	Committed	\$67,650.00

				\$128,330.00
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Note: HUD provides a brief description of matching requirements in the ESG regulations at 24 CFR part 576.201. Some additional information from HUD FAQs can be found from links on the Iowa Finance Authority's ESG page. A link to this page is provided below.

HUD Help Desk Response on matching requirements